The Prefabricated Website

Who needs a server anyway?

Martin Holmes and Joseph Takeda
University of Victoria Humanities Computing and Media Centre

Quick summary

The projects: *Endings* and *The Map of Early Modern London*

What is a static site, and why would you build one?

The site build process

Advantages

Disadvantages

/e   Project *Endings*

Endings is a four-year project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council ([SSHRC](#)) that is creating tools, principles, policies and recommendations for digital scholarship practitioners to create accessible, stable, long-lasting resources in the humanities.
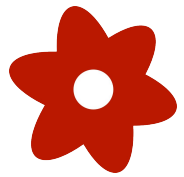
Thank you SSHRC!

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

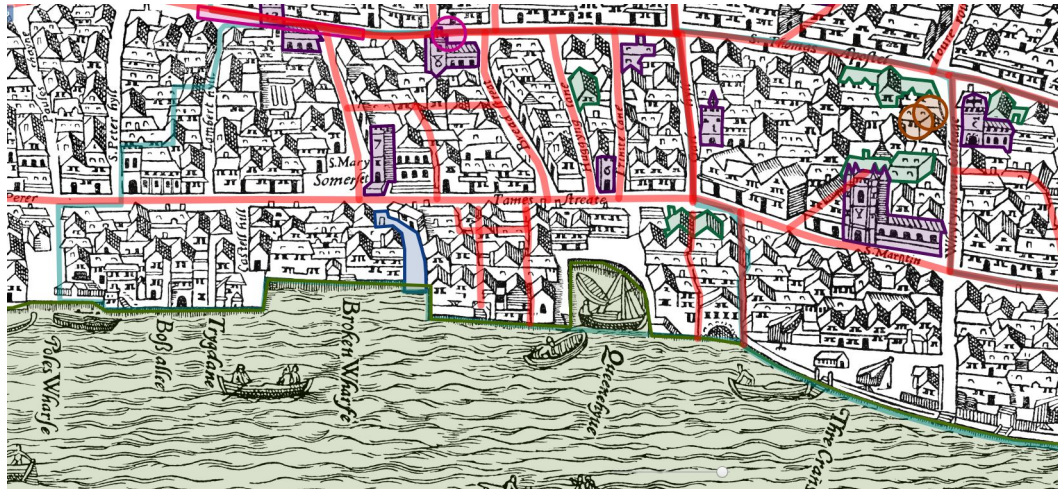Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

The Map of Early Modern London

Currently version 6.3 / 6.4, versions dating back to 1999

2,000+ documents, 1,600+ locations, 6,500+ people, 1800+ bibliography items

Gazetteer / encyclopedia / digital edition publication platform

Endings principles

- Data
- Products
- Processing
- Documentation
- Release Management

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- Data
- **Products**
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Static sites: what and why?

www.tei-c.org, early 2019...

Hmm. We're having trouble finding that site.

We can't connect to the server at www.tei-c.org.

If that address is correct, here are three other things you can try:

- Try again later.
- Check your network connection.
- If you are connected but behind a firewall, check that Firefox has permission to access the Web.

Try Again

Dependencies

The TEI site depends on WordPress

WordPress depends on PHP and MySQL (single point of failure)

Getting a new server running requires

- Installing PHP and MySQL
- Restoring the DB from backup
- Configuring WordPress
- ...

No such problem with the Guidelines

The online version of the TEI Guidelines consists only of HTML, CSS and JavaScript.
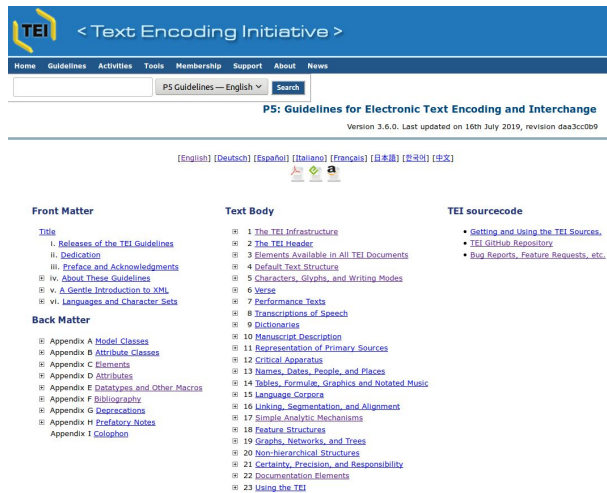
It's always in multiple places.

You can put a copy of it on any server.

You can use it from a local drive.

You can put as many copies as you like wherever you want.

That's a *static site.*

Static sites:

Have no dependencies (other than a web server) ✅

Are pure HTML, CSS and JavaScript ✅

Can be replicated endlessly ✅

Need little or no curation ✅

Therefore have more chance of survival ✅

We're not the only people who think so...

Jamstack.org is an initiative to champion "modern web development architecture based on client-side JavaScript, reusable APIs, and prebuilt Markup," in the interests of "better performance," "cheaper, easier scaling," "higher security," and a "better developer experience."

MoEML's static site build process

Details and main points

Advantages

Disadvantages

Conclusions